

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. An interactive process for facilitating customization of the layout of a space to be

5 occupied by a user, comprising the steps of:

a service provider predetermining the physical attributes of the space independent of the
user's input;

the user identifying to the service provider the space selected to be occupied by the user;

10 the service provider displaying to the user an image representing the floor plan of the
space;

the service provider making available to the user different improvement options that user
may select to configure the layout of the space;

the user selecting the improvement options for the space;

15 the service provider displaying to the user an image representing the space implemented
with the improvement options;

the user engaging the service provider to remodel the space in accordance with the
selected improvement options; and

the service provider remodeling the space in accordance with the selected improvement
options.

20 2. A process as in claim 1, wherein the space is managed by a third party who makes
the space available to the user, wherein the process further comprising the step of the service
provider obtaining permission from the third party to provide customization services to the user.

3. A process as in claim 2, wherein the third party pre-establishes rules with respect to permissible improvement options for the space which are to be made available to the user.

5 4. A process as in claim 1, wherein the user may revise the improvement options upon viewing the image representing the space implemented with the improvement options.

5. A process as in claim 1, wherein the service provider displays the images by way of a 2-D or 3-D graphical user interface.

10 6. A process as in claim 1, wherein there is at least a second user sharing the space, wherein the process further comprises the step of coordinating the improvement options selected by the two users.

15 7. A process as in claim 6, wherein the process allows two or more users an opportunity to agree on the improvement options for the space.

20 8. A process as in claim 7, wherein the second user independently interacts with the service provider to select the improvement options for the space, wherein the service provider coordinates the improvement options independently selected by two or more users in accordance with a priority policy.

9. A process as in claim 1, wherein the service provider predetermines the physical attributes, including at least one of:

physical dimensions;

floor plan; and

physical characteristic.

10. A process as in claim 9, wherein the improvement options includes at least one of:

general space layout;

color scheme;

improvement items;

design.

11. A process as in claim 10, wherein the space includes at least one of:

dormitory room;

apartment;

cottage; and

office.

12. A process as in claim 1, wherein the interaction of the user and the service provider is via a distributed information exchange network.

13. A process as in claim 12, wherein the distributed information exchange network is the Internet.

14. An interactive system for facilitating customization of the layout of a space to be occupied by a user, comprising:

means for storing physical attributes of the space predetermined by the service provider

5 independent of the user's input; and

processing means for:

receiving input concerning the space selected to be occupied by the user,

providing to the user an image representing the floor plan of the space,

providing to the user various improvement options,

10 receiving input concerning improvement options for the space selected by the user,

providing to the user an image representing the space implemented with the improvement options, and

15 handling a transaction between the user and the service provider in which the user engages the service provider to remodel the space in accordance with the selected improvement options.

15. An interactive system for facilitating customization of the layout of a space to be occupied by a user, comprising:

20 server means configured to store:

physical attributes of the space predetermined by the service provider

independent of the user's input, and

various improvement options;

client means configured to display:

an image representing the floor plan of the space,

various improvement options, and

an image representing the space implemented with the improvement

options;

wherein the client means is further configured to permit the user to:

identify to the server means the space selected to be occupied by the user,

and

select improvement options for the space; and

wherein the server is further configured to handle a transaction between the user and the service provider in which the user engages the service provider to remodel the space in accordance with the selected improvement options.

16. A system as in claim 15, wherein the server and the client are coupled over the Internet.

17. A service provided by a service provider for facilitating customization of the layout of a space to be occupied by a user, comprising the steps of:

the service provider predetermining the physical attributes of the space independent of

the user's input;

the user identifying to the service provider the space selected to be occupied by the user;

the service provider displaying to the user an image representing the floor plan of the

space;

the service provider making available to the user different improvement options that user may select to configure the layout of the space;

the user selecting the improvement options for the space;

the service provider displaying to the user an image representing the space implemented
5 with the improvement options;

the user engaging the service provider to remodel the space in accordance with the selected improvement options; and

the service provider remodeling the space in accordance with the selected improvement options.

10 18. A dormitory housing service, comprising the steps of:

offering a tenant an opportunity to customize the layout of a dorm room to be occupied
by the tenant; and

performing services to customize the dorm room prior to tenant's move in.

15 19. A dormitory housing service as in claim 18, wherein the step of offering comprises the steps of:

displaying to the tenant an image representing the floor plan of the dorm room;

making available to the tenant different improvement options that tenant may select to
20 configure the layout of the dorm room;

displaying to the tenant an image representing the dorm room implemented with the selected improvement options;

remodeling the dorm room in accordance with the selected improvement options.